

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, having a shortened statutory period set to expire February 3, 2005. Claims 1-26 are pending. In the present office action, Claims 1, 8, 15, 21 and 24 are amended, Claims 7, 14, 20 and 26 are cancelled and Claim 27 is added. Upon entry of the proposed amendments, Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-19, 21-25 and 27 are pending.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In paragraph 82 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has stated that Claims 7, 14, 20 and 26 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claim(s). The pending claims in the current amendment are rewritten in compliance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant therefore urges that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraph 7 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has rejected dependent Claim 2 as being unpatentable over *McClure* (U.S. Patent No. 5,305,268) and *Fauce* (U.S. Patent No. 5,081,646) in view of *Zumkehr et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,617,895) and *Kuroiwa* (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,731).

As evidenced by the attached filing documents, the present invention claims foreign priority from the Japan Patent Application 2000-370626, filed on December 5, 2000. *Zumkehr* has an effective filing date of March 30, 2001, and thus is not available as Section 103 prior art. Applicants now amend their claims to include Independent Claim 27, which includes the limitations of original Claims 1 and 2.

Furthermore, *Kuroiwa*, which is cited for teaching a table containing an "optimum value of the control signal slew rate" based on "a quantity of devices connected to said host system," does not teach or suggest this feature. *Kuroiwa* teaches adjusting slew rates for signals according to line capacitance and resistance from wiring in the system (*Kuroiwa* col. 7, lines 2-5). The resistance loads are based on both resistance from the wires themselves as well as connection

holes (*Kuroiwa*, col. 7, lines 11-12, 28-31). *Kuroiwa* does not teach controlling slew rates based on a “quantity of devices,” but rather on a quality (line capacitance and resistance) of a circuit. “Quantity” and “quality” in this context are not equivalent or even directly related, as is self-evident by the fact that a single device may have a capacitance/resistance that is higher than a total capacitance/resistance of numerous devices.

Applicants therefore request that Claim 27 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

The present amendment includes one excess independent claim. Therefore, applicants request that a fee of \$200.00 for this excess claim be charged to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0466**.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0466**.

Respectfully submitted,



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